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AN UNCUT DIAMOND.

WE WERE talking of the slight put upon education by the World's Fair Commission. My interlocutor was a handsome, keen, prosperous-looking man in middle life, with a huge diamond in his by no means irreproachable shirt bosom, and another almost as large on his little finger. He defended the Commission, and expressed the opinion that the advantages of education in general were greatly over-estimated.

"Look at *me*, sir," he said. "I am a self-made man. I never had but three months' 'schoolin' in my life, and just see where I stand to-day!"

Good taste aside, there certainly was ample foundation for his boastful words and his still more boastful manner. He had been an alderman in his native city for "five years runnin'," and he was now its mayor. He had begun his business life as an errand boy in "a glass works," and was now, as he informed me, the proud owner of a quarter of a million of dollars. Men who had graduated from the best schools, including the university, came to him for his advice and "infloence."

"Pretty good that, for a man who never saw the inside of a college—eh?"

"It certainly does great credit to your native sagacity, industry, and push," I replied.

"Yes, sir, I suppose we must admit that. Education is a good thing, no doubt, a very good thing; but you see it ain't absolutely necessary to success in life. I done without it, and I have got along fairly well."

"Yes, Mr. Mayor, you have got along more than fairly well. Judged by the usual standards, you have succeeded far better than the great majority of men who have been through the schools."

What more I actually said does not matter. I might have said: But your boast that you have had only "three months' schoolin'" is not true. You have been to school all your life. The rays that emanate from the lamps of learning are not imprisoned within the four walls of the school-house. They shine through the windows and doors. Every man and every woman who graduates from the schools is a torch-bearer, and you have been more or less enlightened by the universal flood of light, although you may have borne no torch yourself.

You are no more "self-made" than the most erudite son of Harvard or Yale. If he is made at all it has been as truly through his own intelligence, energy, industry, and push, as your own making has been through the qualities of which you boast so offensively. Every educated man with whom you have talked, every public speaker you have heard, has been your school-master; every newspaper you have read, your text-book; every position you have occupied, your class-room. The scholar in the school, the student in the college, is no more the passive recipient of his instruction than you are the passive recipient of yours. Walking in the flood of light which has everywhere surrounded you, how could you help being enlightened if you are capable of enlightenment? Many are not thus capable, and these the schools will help no more than the lighted torch will help the blind man. You are no more independent of the school-house, Mr. Mayor, than the man who has spent all the days of his youth there. Though you might never have crossed its threshold, yet it is the principal and original cause of the difference between you and the savage chief in the wilderness.

You say you "done without education and have got along fairly well." As I have shown, you have *not* done without it. The only things

it has lacked in your case are the system, symmetry, and thoroughness which actual attendance at the schools might have given it.

And now let us see what these might have done for you.

You pass for a man of thorough information and logical thought only among men of your own or of inferior grade, and it is only because these are in such a majority in your city that you hold so high a place in the general estimation. Among your intellectual superiors you are known for the shrewd, forceful, successful, but comparatively shallow man you really are.

You might not have been wealthier than you are, perhaps not so wealthy; but you would have got more from your wealth. The richly-bound books in your library would have been an intellectual thesaurus to you, instead of a mere household decoration. In all probability you would not have hung those travesties of art which you call paintings on your walls for your more cultivated visitors to laugh at. It is not likely that you would now be wearing those hideous diamonds (the beautiful may become hideous when out of place), and your still more incongruous vulgarisms of speech and behavior would not constantly excite the contemptuous wonder of those into whose society your "success in life" has lifted you. It is probable, too, that if your more refined taste had not toned down your aggressive vanity and egotism, it would at least have prevented their offensive exhibition on all occasions.

Even if I could convince you of the truth of all this, it might seem to you of little importance, compared with the great facts of your wealth and achievements. But these very facts are an injury to the community in which you live, for they lower the standard of civilization, which does not depend upon wealth alone nor upon the holding of office. Magnify your vanity, boastfulness, vulgar display, ignorance, and contempt for education sufficiently, *i. e.*, nullify what the common school has indirectly, if not directly, done for you, and you become brother to the Ashantee chief.

Do you think education might have lessened your energy and push? Unlike the blazing jewel in your soiled shirt bosom, the human diamond is not diminished but rather increased in weight by proper cutting.

EDWARD P. JACKSON.

STUDENTS AS SHOWMEN.

"PERMISSION has been given to the Glee Club, Banjo Club, and Guitar and Mandolin Club to make a trip through the West during the Christmas recess, similar to that made two winters ago by the two former organizations. Concerts will be given in New York, December 23; Chicago, December 26; St. Louis, December 27; Cincinnati, December 29; Washington, December 31, and Philadelphia, January 1."

This tour, the announcement of which is taken from a college periodical (*Harvard Monthly*), is an example of a comparatively new feature of student life in this country. In this instance a company of a score or more young men travelled some three thousand miles, and gave six musical performances within ten days. Taking all the colleges together, it is probably not far from the truth to say that several hundred students now spend the whole or a part of their winter recess in a similar manner. The object of these tours, in which sometimes concerts and sometimes dramatic or minstrel performances are given, is various. Very often, however, if I am not mistaken, the surplus receipts, if there are any, after the expenses are paid, are bestowed upon some college institution. It is in this respect alone, and in the fact